
Term of the Month

Gatekeepers

Professionals such as lawyers, notaries, accountants, investment advisors, and trust and company service providers who assist in transactions involving the movement of money and are deemed to have a particular role in identifying, preventing and reporting money laundering. Some countries impose due diligence requirements on gatekeepers that are similar to those of financial institutions.

News Update

IntelleWings partnered in the AML Virtual Event, which focused on 'Corporate Service Providers' and 'Accountants & Auditors' on August 10, 2023. The event aimed to combat money laundering and financial crimes, with speakers Jasbir Bindra who is a founder in Alpha Omega Project Management Service, Having experience of more than 27 years in financial service industry and Ms. Avani Pawani who is Subject Matter Expert in Anti-Money Laundering, Counter Terrorism Financing and Fraud Prevention, she has represented the Ministry of Economy as advisory specialist part of the UAE AML/CFT National action plan. This event was specifically organized for professionals in the financial sector, compliance officers, regulators, law enforcement, and anyone interested in enhancing their understanding of and ability to combat financial crimes. It provided valuable insights and expertise to all participants, contributing to a stronger stance against financial misconduct.

Our Offices: EDC, IT Park Chandigarh, India & Dubai World Trade Centre, UAE

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#)

News from the **AML world**

FATF improves UAE's rating: UAE makes progress in strengthening measures to tackle money laundering and terrorist financing

The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) released a report recognizing the UAE's progress in enhancing its anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist financing (CTF) measures since 2022. Despite remaining on the grey list, denoting increased scrutiny, the UAE has made significant strides. FATF praised the country's commitment to AML and CTF efforts, bringing it closer to international standards. The UAE aims to exit the grey list in the upcoming FATF review scheduled for April/May 2024.

UAE and Brazil enter partnership to boost economic co-operation

The UAE and Brazil have partnered to exchange economic knowledge and expertise as part of the UAE's government experience sharing program. This collaboration aims to enhance economic and trade relations by highlighting investment opportunities and sharing best practices in various areas, including foreign trade, investment, anti-money laundering, and competition policy. Brazil is the UAE's leading trading partner in Latin America, with non-oil trade reaching \$4.3 billion last year.

Malta: An Overview Of The FIAU's Supervisory Approach

Malta's Financial Intelligence Analysis Unit (FIAU) employs a risk-based supervisory approach to monitor AML/CFT compliance among entities in Malta. Using its Compliance Assessment and Supervisory Platform for Assessing Risk (CASPAR), FIAU assesses the risk posed by each entity, tailoring its supervisory plan accordingly. FIAU recently issued a newsletter outlining the types of supervisory interventions, expectations from entities, and focus areas, emphasizing cooperation and timely action. Failure to comply may lead to enforcement action.

India: FinTales Issue 32: Anti-money Laundering Laws, Data Bill & Fintechs

India's Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) wields significant power through its enforcing agency, the Enforcement Directorate (ED). Recently, the Delhi High Court classified PayPal as a 'reporting entity' under the PMLA, imposing compliance and reporting obligations. PayPal's resistance, based on its non-classification as a 'payment system' by the RBI, was rejected. This ruling underscores the PMLA's broad authority. Additionally, India's Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023, is set to affect fintech companies, emphasizing data protection compliance.

Our Offices: EDC, IT Park Chandigarh, India & Dubai World Trade Centre, UAE

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#)



[UAE to set up anti-money laundering bodies](#)

The UAE is creating specialized federal prosecution entities to combat money laundering and economic crimes. This move follows increased scrutiny by the FATF due to concerns over illicit finance, which led to the UAE being placed on the FATF's "grey list" in 2022. The decision aims to bolster international investor confidence, protect the national economy, and reduce economic and financial crimes' impact, reinforcing the UAE's reputation as a global business hub.

[Sri Lanka to plug gaps in anti-money laundering, counter terror financing rules](#)

Sri Lanka's cabinet of ministers, under President Ranil Wickremesinghe's proposal, has approved measures to address identified weaknesses in the nation's anti-money laundering and terrorist financing framework. These measures are outlined in the AML & CFT National Policy for 2023-2028. Sri Lanka is preparing for its third annual mutual evaluation by the Asia Pacific Regional Group on Money Laundering, scheduled for March 2025, as it aligns with international standards set by the Financial Action Task Force to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

[World News | UAE: Abdullah Bin Zayed Chairs Meeting on Anti-Money Laundering](#)

UAE Foreign Affairs Minister, Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed Al Nahyan, led the 19th meeting of the Higher Committee Overseeing the National Strategy on AML & CFT. The UAE demonstrated progress on its FATF Action Plan, enhancing international collaboration and imposing fines exceeding AED210 million on non-compliant entities this year. Transparency measures have improved corporate compliance, while Suspicious Transaction Reports (STRs) rose by 48% in first half of 2023. Quality and quantity of money laundering cases aligned with UAE's risk profile have increased. Law enforcement efforts resulted in AED4 billion in confiscations and 387 international suspect arrests.

[Pakistan's National Assembly passes bill to curb money laundering, terror financing](#)

Pakistan's National Assembly has passed the National Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing of Terrorism Authority Act, 2023. The bill aims to establish a central authority to combat money laundering and terror financing by bringing all institutions related to the FATF under one command. It is seen as a crucial step to avoid being placed on the FATF's grey list again. The authority will coordinate matters at the national level, propose policy changes, and facilitate cooperation with international organizations to combat financial crimes.

Our Offices: EDC, IT Park Chandigarh, India & Dubai World Trade Centre, UAE

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#)



[Under SCO chairmanship, Kazakhstan aims to elevate cooperative diplomacy, combat terrorism](#)

Kazakhstan, as the current chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), aims to strengthen cooperative diplomacy, combat extremism, terrorism, and separatism, and enhance regional cooperation. The SCO, with nine member states representing 40% of the world's population and a quarter of the global GDP, has the potential to contribute significantly to global challenges. Kazakhstan also seeks to promote economic projects, including transit and transport, energy security, and digital transformation, during its chairmanship.

[US Imposes Sanctions on 20 Individuals and 29 Firms in Maldives Over Terror Links](#)

The United States has imposed sanctions on 20 individuals and 29 companies in the Maldives, accusing them of having ties to terrorist groups ISIS and al-Qa'ida. These designations aim to disrupt financial and other support for terrorist activities and individuals. The sanctioned individuals include members of an ISIS-affiliated cell involved in terror plots and a criminal gang financing Maldivians fighting abroad. Two al-Qa'ida operatives were also targeted for their involvement in financing and facilitating travel to conflict zones, one of whom was linked to the killing of a journalist.

Regulatory Information from the AML world

[CBUAE imposes financial sanction on exchange house operating in UAE](#)

The Central Bank of the UAE (CBUAE) has imposed a financial sanction on an exchange house operating in the UAE for weak compliance in preventing money laundering and financing terrorism. Following an examination by the CBUAE, it was found that the exchange house had deficiencies in its risk analysis and due diligence policies. As a result, a fine of AED 4,800,000 has been imposed on the exchange house, in line with UAE laws and regulations aimed at safeguarding the integrity of the financial system.

[Cyprus: Financial Services And Regulatory Updates July 2023](#)

Cyprus financial regulatory authorities issued several updates. ESMA published guidelines on early intervention measures, and EBA released its fourth opinion on money laundering and terrorist financing risks. Moneyval's report on virtual assets was also highlighted. The Central Bank of Cyprus set the loan interest rate for July-September 2023. ECB reported that credit terms tightened in securities financing and OTC derivatives markets. EBA conducted an ad-hoc analysis of unrealized losses on debt securities in EU banks. ESMA analyzed cross-border investment services, and recognition decisions for UAE CCPs were withdrawn due to AML concerns. ESMA and EBA assessed the implementation of the revised Shareholder Rights Directive.

Our Offices: EDC, IT Park Chandigarh, India & Dubai World Trade Centre, UAE

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#)



[DFSA signs MoU to fight against financial crime](#)

The Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the FIU of the UAE to enhance cooperation, coordination, and information sharing in AML and CFT efforts. This agreement aims to ensure compliance with AML/CFT regulations and improve their ability to combat financial crime by exchanging information and resources.

[Strategic project by Customs elevates anti-laundering procedures, says official](#)

The General Authority of Customs (GAC) in Qatar has completed a strategic project aimed at enhancing its AML procedures. The project has had a significant impact on the development of AML procedures and clarified the authority's role in dealing with money laundering and terrorism. Earlier this year, Qatar received praise from FATF for its strong AML and counter-terrorist financing framework, marking the country as having a high level of compliance with all 40 FATF recommendations. The GAC is dedicated to monitoring cross-border money movements and emphasizes the importance of proper declarations and information submission by travelers to prevent AML violations.

[BRICS Summit 2023: Nation rejects 'double standards' in countering terrorism](#)

The BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) have rejected "double standards" in countering terrorism and pledged to confront the issue, including cross-border movements of terrorists and terrorism financing networks. In a declaration at the end of the BRICS summit, the leaders called for the swift finalization and adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism within the UN framework. They emphasized that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization, or ethnic group. The BRICS leaders reaffirmed their commitment to combating terrorism in all its forms and stressed the need for a comprehensive approach by the international community.

[SBV Issues Guidance on Anti-Money Laundering Law](#)

The State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) issued Circular 09/2023/TT-NHNN to guide the implementation of the AML Law. It provides criteria for assessing money laundering risks, procedures for managing suspicious transactions, and client risk classification. The circular introduces a scoring system to evaluate risk and emphasizes compliance with AML regulations. Most provisions came into effect on July 28, 2023, while specific reporting requirements and forms will apply from December 1, 2023.

Our Offices: EDC, IT Park Chandigarh, India & Dubai World Trade Centre, UAE

Follow us on [LinkedIn](#) and [Twitter](#)

